

part of the International Security Assistance Force;

Whereas Bulgaria has stood firmly by the United States in the cause of advancing freedom worldwide during its tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas Bulgaria met each request of the United States relating to overflight and basing rights as well as transit of United States and coalition forces, and deployed a 500-man infantry battalion as part of a stabilization force in Iraq;

Whereas in November 2002, Bulgaria was invited to accession talks with NATO and has shown determination in enacting the continued reforms necessary to be a productive, contributing member of the Alliance;

Whereas Bulgaria strongly supports the strengthening of trans-Atlantic relations and considers the relations to be a basis for NATO unity and cooperation in countering new threats to global security; and

Whereas in May 2003, the Senate gave its consent with 96 votes to 0 for the ratification of the accession protocols of Bulgaria and 6 other aspirant countries from Central and Eastern Europe to NATO, thereby welcoming their contribution to common trans-Atlantic security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 100 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria;

(2) commends the Republic of Bulgaria for developing increasingly friendly and broadly based relations with the United States, which are now the most favorable in the history of United States-Bulgaria relations;

(3) recognizes Bulgaria's continued contributions towards bringing peace, stability, and prosperity to the region of southeastern Europe, including the contributions of Bulgaria to regional security and democratic stability;

(4) salutes Bulgaria's willing cooperation and increasingly vital role as a valuable ally in the war against international terrorism;

(5) highlights the importance of Bulgaria's active participation in regional initiatives such as the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, the Southeast Europe Cooperative Initiative, and the Southeast Europe Cooperation Process, and the various projects of those initiatives, which are focused on fighting crime and corruption, increasing trade, improving the investment climate, and generally preparing Bulgaria and Southeast Europe as a whole for eventual membership in the European Union; and

(6) encourages opportunities for greater cooperation between the United States and Bulgaria in the political, military, economic, and cultural spheres.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAWRENCE EUGENE "LARRY" DOBY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 235 which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 235) celebrating the life and achievements of Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, the Senate is poised to pass H. Con. Res. 235, a measure that pays tribute to a legendary American pioneer and a long-time friend of mine, Larry Doby, who died on June 18. I appreciate the willingness of the majority and minority leaders to expedite Senate consideration of this measure, and I applaud the efforts of Congressman BILL PASCRELL of my home State of New Jersey, who introduced it in the House of Representatives.

I first met Larry when we were thirteen or fourteen. We went to school together at Eastside High in my hometown, Paterson, NJ. The first time I saw him, he was running track, doing the broad jump. And he was amazing. We stayed in touch over the many years that have passed since then.

Larry Doby was an exceptional athlete—one of our very best—and an exciting player to watch on the field. But he was much more than that; he was a great man and he was also a good man. He had so much dignity. Though Larry Doby has died, the path he blazed for African-Americans remains.

Few people realize that Larry began his groundbreaking athletic career in 1943—at the age of 18—as the first African-American to play in the American Basketball League for the Paterson Panthers. He then moved on to baseball, playing for the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League. After returning from his service to the Navy for 2 years, Larry hit .414 with 14 home runs in his final season in Newark.

It was on July 5, 1947, just 11 weeks after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball, that Larry Doby signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians of the American league. He was the first African-American player in the American League. Larry had no intention or desire to become part of history. When Indians owner Bill Veeck predicted to Larry that he would "be part of history," Larry replied, "I had no notions about that. I just wanted to play baseball."

And play baseball he did, and quite well. Larry was an All-Star seven times in his 13-year career. In the 1948 World Series between Cleveland and the Boston Braves, his home run in Game 4 broke a 1-1 tie; Cleveland won 2-1 and went on to win the Series in six games. He hit at least 20 home runs in eight straight seasons and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998.

Larry became the second African-American manager of a major league team when he took over as skipper of the Chicago White Sox in 1978. He was also the director of community relations for the New Jersey Nets in the late 1970s, encouraging the development of youth programs in urban New Jersey.

Larry was a superb athlete, but things didn't come easy for him. When he joined the Indians, he was harassed by opposing players and fans. He was forced to eat in separate restaurants,

to sleep in separate hotels. Some of his own teammates wouldn't even shake his hand. But he pressed on, and we're a better country for it.

At the memorial service for Larry, Newark Star-Ledger sports columnist Jerry Izenberg recalled the day that Larry entered the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. The two of them paused in front of a large photo snapped immediately after Game 4 of the 1948 World Series—the game Larry won with his home run. The photo showed Larry and winning pitcher Steve Gromek hugging each other. Larry reminisced that the photo appeared on the front pages of a lot of newspapers the next day and said to Jerry, "That was the first time you could see a black and white person embrace on the first page of papers." "At the time," Jerry said, "America needed that picture. And Larry was so proud to have played a part in giving America what it needed."

Larry said it best in a speech he gave after his career had ended. He said, "We can see that baseball helped make this a better country. We hope baseball has given (children) some idea of what it is to live together and how you can get along, whether you are black or white."

By this resolution Congress is showing its appreciation on behalf of all Americans to Larry Doby for his role in breaking down racial barriers in baseball and in America. I'll say here what I said at his memorial service: "When we stand every day for the things we believe in, we'll be standing for Larry Doby." His family will miss him. I will miss him. America will miss him.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 235) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 49

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 49 which was just received from the House is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 49) to permanently extend the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.